

## FULLERTON PICKS JIM THORPE TO BE THE BIG BASEBALL SENSATION OF 1914

BY HUGH S. FULLERTON.

Jim Thorpe, Indian athlete, promises to be the most sensational baseball player of 1914.

The astounding advances made by this famous athlete in baseball have furnished managers, owners, players



James Thorpe.

and experts with an object lesson that threatens to overturn a lot of the traditions of the national game, and compel a radical change in existing and accepted methods.

If Thorpe keeps the promise he has given during the fall and winter, it will be a triumph for John McGraw far greater than the winning of a

world's championship could be, and it will make him the greatest man of baseball. It will be a triumph for McGraw's method of developing baseball players.

Thorpe is the greatest athlete in the world. He has proved it at almost every style and kind of going. He won the all-round championship during the Olympic games. He had played some baseball, but was only a mediocre player, and a wretched hitter in school and on the little team with which he played and professionalized himself.

When the New York team signed Thorpe to play baseball it looked as if New York was merely putting over a press agent scheme. Thorpe earned his salary last season in advertising he gave the team. But McGraw evidently had other ideas. There is one thing about McGraw. If he has faith in a player he will stick to him longer than any other manager would. He calculated that Thorpe could run faster, throw harder, jump further and higher, and was stronger than any athlete in the world. With that material he set out to make a real baseball player.

Thorpe was an awkward fielder, erratic, a lunging, hard-swinging, uncertain batter, and he had most of the faults that would be considered fatal in young players. McGraw kept him while almost any other manager would have fired him as a hopeless prospect before the training trip was ended. All last summer McGraw worked patiently with the Indian and watched him. He was satisfied. Thorpe, he discovered, also had brains, and the Indian was studying, watching the actions of others and adapting himself to certain methods of others.

Then the round-the-world trip started. Thorpe had the opportunity of watching different kinds of ball-players, and he suddenly cut loose